REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 8 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-8 are now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 1-7 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,937,115 to Domash ("Domash") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,488,681 to Deacon ("Deacon"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 8, as amended, requires a planar light guiding medium having a top light emitting surface, light pipes with output ends, and further "the output ends are arranged so that a plurality of the output ends are along each of the side faces having an output end." Domash and Deacon fail to suggest this combination of features.

Domash discloses in Figures 11 and 12 embodiments with an electronically switchable Bragg grating (ESBG) 12 where guided modes are coupled to a radiated guided mode (col. 13, lines 43-48). The devices of Figures 11 and 12 appear to have a wave guide to couple light into the ESBG.

Even if the radiated guided mode of the Domash devices of Figures 11 and 12 is emitted out of the top of the ESBG 12, however, Domash fails to disclose any of the sides of

the ESBG 12 having more than one waveguide to guide light into the ESBG. Thus, Domash fails to suggest waveguides that have output ends where "the output ends are arranged so that a plurality of the output ends are along each of the side faces having an output end" as recited in claim 8.

Deacon fails to cure the deficiencies of Domash. Deacon discloses a device in Figure 9 where an input beam 159 is guided in waveguide 160 and interacts with a grating to produce an output beam 161 out of the top of the structure (See col. 22, lines 24-36). In contrast to claim 1, however, the grating of the Deacon device is not disclosed as comprising a liquid crystal material. Moreover, Deacon does not disclose any of the sides of the grating region as having more than one waveguide to guide light into the grating region. Thus, Domash fails to suggest waveguides that have output ends where "the output ends are arranged so that a plurality of the output ends are along each of the side faces having an output end" as recited in claim 8.

In sum, even if Domash and Deacon were combined, the resultant structure would not include a planar light guiding medium having a top light emitting surface, light pipes with output ends, and where "the output ends are arranged so that a plurality of the output ends are along each of the side faces having an output end."

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date May 09, 2005 By _____ (40,358)

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Telephone: (202) 672-5485
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

William T. Ellis
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,874

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438